

Perez, and that is why I will be voting against him today.

As for Gina McCarthy, I have no doubt she is a well-meaning public servant. We had some good conversations when she came to visit my office earlier this year. But as the head of EPA's air division, she is overseeing the implementation of numerous job-killing regulations. These regulations, along with others promulgated by the EPA, have had a devastating effect in States such as mine.

They have helped bring about a depression—depression with a “d” in parts of Eastern Kentucky.

And there is no reason to expect a course correction from Ms. McCarthy if she were to be confirmed as Administrator.

In fact, one assumes she would be expected to carry forward the President's plan to impose, essentially by executive fiat, even more destructive policies—policies similar to those already rejected by a Democrat-controlled Congress.

As someone sent here to stand up for the people who elected me, I cannot in good conscience support a nominee who would advance more of the same, someone who is not willing to stand up to this administration's war on coal.

And remember, this “war” talk that is not me saying that. “A war on coal is exactly what's needed.” That is what one of the White House's own climate advisors said just the other week.

All of us—Republicans especially—believe in being good stewards of the environment. But Washington officials have to be rational and holistic in their approach. They cannot, as this administration seems to think, simply do whatever they want, regardless of the consequences for people who do not live or act or think the same way they do.

I do not blame Ms. McCarthy personally for all of the administration's policies. But I believe the EPA needs an Administrator who is ready to step up and challenge the idea that the livelihoods of particular groups of Americans can simply be sacrificed in pursuit of some ivory tower fantasy. That kind of nominee—the kind of nominee I can support—is one who is willing to question the status quo and to make Kentuckians part of the solution.

#### OBAMACARE

Later today, the President is scheduled to deliver a speech on Obamacare.

He is expected to say that, because of Obamacare, Americans can expect checks in the mail.

Sounds great, doesn't it? Free money.

But, as they say, most things in life that sound too good to be true very often are.

And, in this case, it is not so much that people will be getting free money, as that most people will be paying many dollars more for their healthcare and maybe—just maybe—getting a few bucks back.

In other words, if you are a family in Covington facing a \$2,100 premium in-

crease under Obamacare, then, really, what would you rather have: a check for \$100 or so or a way to avoid the \$2,100 premium increase in the first place?

I think the answer is pretty obvious.

I think most Kentuckians would agree that this is just another sad attempt by the administration to spin them into wanting a law they do not want.

And there is this to consider: Even though we expect the President today to tout about \$500 million worth of these types of refunds, what he will not say is that next year Obamacare will impose a new sales tax on the purchase of health insurance that will cost Americans about \$8 billion. That is a 16 to 1 ratio.

So if the administration is concerned with saving people money on their health care, I have some advice for them.

Work with us to repeal Obamacare and start over—work with us to implement common-sense, step-by-step reforms that can actually lower costs for Kentuckians. Because jacking up our constituents' health care costs is bad enough, but to try to then convince them the opposite is happening—that they have actually won some Publishers Clearinghouse sweepstakes, well, it is just as absurd as it sounds. It is really an insult and I know Kentuckians aren't going to buy it.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority leader controlling the first half.

The Senator from Colorado.

#### AURORA THEATER SHOOTING

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to mark a somber milestone. Nearly 1 year ago, Colorado and the Nation were shocked by the horrific scene at an Aurora movie theater. Even before the sun rose that Friday, July 20, 2012, we began hearing of a senseless mass shooting that took the lives of 12 people and injured 70 more.

Today I want to mark the anniversary of this tragedy and to honor the strength that so many Coloradans have shown—both on that day and in the weeks and months since.

The Aurora theater shooting shook us, it shocked us, it outraged us, but, as I said one year ago, it did not break us. Even today we are seeing that the

legacy of this terrible tragedy is not the horror of that day but, rather, the courage and resilience of the people who have refused to let this event define their lives.

Take, for example, 18-year-old Zack Golditch, who endured surgery and weeks of recovery so he could continue with his football career and become a repeat state discus champion. The Denver Post recently named him the winner of their Adversity Conquered through Excellence award and this fall he will begin his freshman year as an offensive lineman at CSU.

Or Marcus Weaver, who was shot twice but now hosts a weekly radio show in Denver that spotlights great Americans who are making a difference in the community. Marcus also works with his church to help people who have struggled through addiction or incarceration and now travels the country inspiring others with his story and pushing them to take charge of their lives.

These are just two of the countless examples of the perseverance of people who were affected by the Aurora shooting. Zack and Marcus's strength defines us as Americans. That is something in which we can take great pride.

It is the kind of strength we honor in remembering this tragedy now a year later. In particular, we look back and honor young men like 26-year-old Jon Blunk and 24-year-old Alexander Teves who sacrificed their lives to protect their friends. And then there were the countless police and other first responders who rushed to the scene to care for the wounded and to stop the shooter before he could injure others.

Colorado has known too many tragedies these past several years. From the Aurora theater shooting to wildfires in Colorado Springs, Fort Collins and elsewhere that have threatened and destroyed entire communities and left hundreds of our friends and neighbors without homes.

We have seen the same spirit of sacrifice and resilience, as firefighters and community members have banded together to fight the Black Forest Fire, the West Fork Complex Fire and the other blazes that have threatened entire communities across Colorado this year.

This Saturday, on the 1-year anniversary of the Aurora theater shooting, let's take time to remember those we have lost and to honor the resilience of our neighbors who press on with their lives, undaunted by this terrible act.

In that spirit, I want to read into the RECORD the names of the twelve people who lost their lives one year ago. We must never forget these names: Matt McQuinn, Micayla Medek, Jessica Ghawi, Gordon Cowden, Jesse Childress, John Larimer, Jonathan Blunk, Veronica Moser-Sullivan, Alex Sullivan, Alexander Teves, Rebecca Wingo, and Alexander Boik.

I hope that we can draw strength from the tragic loss of those 12 wonderful, beautiful people and that it leads